

**Legislative Task Force Meeting  
Mentor Assistance Program  
Legislative Office Building - Room 1B  
October 3, 2008  
1:00-4:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

- A. Welcome, Introductions
- B. Minutes from Meeting of September 23, 2008
- C. Recap of Issues
- D. Presentation of Farmington Public Schools' Induction, Mentoring and Supervision Program
- E. Discussion
- (Break)*
- F. Discussion of the Farmington Model relative to Models 1 and 2
- G. Formation of a Short-term Work Group
- H. Setting Next Week's Agenda: Speakers and Presenters
- I. Adjournment

**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING  
MENTOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

September 23, 2008  
1:00 p.m.  
Legislative Office Building, Room 1A  
Hartford, CT

**MINUTES  
(Subject to revision)**

**Members Present**

Mark McQuillan, Chairperson; Stephanie Shulder-Littrell, Mary Cortright, Janis Hochadel, Mary Loftus Levine, Maureen Ruby, Catherine Carbone, Dale Bernardoni, Richard Schwab, Paul Paese, Representative Mary Mushinsky (for part of meeting) and David Cicarella

**Members Absent**

Glenn Iannaccone, Senator Thomas Gaffey, Senator Thomas Herlihy, Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Representative DebraLee Hovey, Senator Edward Meyer and Senator John Kissell.

**Staff Present**

Nancy Pugliese, Katherine Nicoletti, Beverly Hartstone

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

**Overview of Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner McQuillan began the meeting by welcoming all attendees. He thanked Senator Meyer for assisting in securing the Legislative Office Building as the site for future meetings. A revised schedule of dates and locations for each meeting was distributed. Introductions followed. The Commissioner reviewed the contents of the packet: the minutes from the September 16, 2008, meeting and a memorandum from the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). He indicated that the Task Force would review proposed models for the new program submitted by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the CEA. The Commissioner also said that he would like to use questions posed in the Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) Alliance memo as a frame of reference for discussions.

**Opening Discussion**

Opening discussions revolved around the suggestion that the Task Force look at current research regarding induction models being used around the country to determine what components the Task Force would want to have in a new program. Commissioner McQuillan suggested that the Task Force continue by looking at the transition issues and suggested that additional research be considered at the next meeting.

**Minutes Accepted**

The minutes of the September 16, 2008, were approved by all Task Force members present.

### **Transition Plans**

The legislation calls for the Task Force to make recommendations concerning the transition between BEST and the new program for those that have not received a satisfactory evaluation prior to June 30, 2009.

A discussion about scoring the 2009 portfolios followed. However, Commissioner McQuillan stated that this year's work does not have to be completed by June 30, 2009, as we must complete the work of assessing the portfolios submitted by teachers this year. He indicated that it would make sense to build a system of transition where those that don't meet standards transition into the new program.

Other comments included the reminder that portfolios are scored by teachers and therefore, must be evaluated during the summer. A suggestion was made to give teachers (that fail) the option of completing one more portfolio due February 2010 or phasing into the new program.

### **Exemptions**

A discussion of endorsement areas that would not be held to participation in the new program was held. (A list of all BEST participation areas appears in the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Report, page 15). It was suggested that at this point the Task Force keep all categories as is, but revisit the list later on in discussions once it is determined what the new program will look like.

### **Certification Link**

Discussion regarding the new program's link to certification followed. Commissioner McQuillan cautioned the Task Force to think carefully about the implicit statement of the BEST program's link to certification found in the statute that was brought about originally by the Educational Enhancement Act.

Commissioner McQuillan indicated that consideration could be given to removing the link between induction and certification. He noted that the state can play a significant role in providing a quality induction program through: looking at district plans, working with district teams, providing independent review of plans, and perhaps observations.

### **RESC Alliance Position Paper**

Commissioner McQuillan referred the Task Force to a document entitled "A View of Teacher Induction in Connecticut" prepared by the RESC Alliance. He referred to the question posed on page three asking what a new induction program should entail:

Should a new induction program entail:

- Assistance to mentors or mentor assistance to beginning teachers;
- Comprehensive induction linked with district evaluation and development practices; and/or
- Comprehensive induction with accountability for certification?

Discussion followed.

**Proposal for Next Meeting: October 3, 2008**

Consider structural features of models 1 & 2.

Consider other research in light of what the Task Force is building.

Consider question of alignment of induction mentoring modules and role state would play.

Consider tie to supervision and evaluation.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hartstone